



General Assembly

February Session, 2016

***Raised Bill No. 5514***

LCO No. 2564



Referred to Committee on GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION  
AND ELECTIONS

Introduced by:  
(GAE)

***AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES  
AND AUTOMATIC VOTER REGISTRATION.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General  
Assembly convened:

1       Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2017*) (a) (1) The Commissioner of  
2       Motor Vehicles shall, in consultation with the Secretary of the State  
3       and any other department head, as defined in section 4-5 of the general  
4       statutes, designated by the Secretary of the State, establish a schedule  
5       and system by which the Department of Motor Vehicles or other state  
6       agency designated by the Secretary of the State electronically provides  
7       to the registrars of voters of a municipality the elector admission  
8       records of each person residing in such municipality who submits an  
9       application to the department, as that term is defined in subdivision (2)  
10      of this subsection. Such system shall include, but not be limited to, a  
11      web-based program developed by the Commissioner of Motor  
12      Vehicles or any other department head designated by the Secretary of  
13      the State that allows any such person to be admitted as an elector as  
14      provided in this section.

15       (2) For the purposes of this section, a person submits an application  
16 to the Department of Motor Vehicles or other state agency designated  
17 by the Secretary of the State when such person submits to the  
18 department (A) an application for a motor vehicle operator's license or  
19 motor vehicle operator's license renewal, issued under subpart (B) of  
20 part III of chapter 246 of the general statutes, or an identity card issued  
21 under section 1-1h of the general statutes, (B) any other application or  
22 renewal form, or (C) a change of address for any license, registration or  
23 other record maintained by the department.

24       (b) (1) Except as provided in subdivisions (2) to (5), inclusive, of this  
25 subsection, the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles or other department  
26 head designated by the Secretary of the State shall provide to the  
27 registrars of voters of a municipality, in a manner prescribed by the  
28 Secretary of the State, the following information for each person  
29 residing in such municipality who submits an application to the  
30 department: (A) Name, (B) date of birth, (C) Connecticut motor vehicle  
31 operator's license number or identity card number or, if none, the last  
32 four digits of such person's Social Security number, (D) (i) bona fide  
33 residence, including street number, street address, apartment number  
34 if applicable, town and zip code, or (ii) bona fide mailing address, (E)  
35 gender, (F) digital copy of such person's signature, (G) telephone  
36 number, if available, (H) an indication of whether such person  
37 affirmatively declined to be admitted as an elector during the  
38 submission of an application to the department, (I) an indication that  
39 such person has attested to meeting all eligibility requirements for  
40 admission as an elector, including being a United States citizen who  
41 has attained the age of eighteen years or who will have attained such  
42 age on or before the day of a regular election, (J) the political party  
43 with which the person wishes to affiliate, if any, (K) previous name or  
44 voting address, and (L) any other information required by the  
45 Secretary of the State.

46       (2) Each person applying for admission as an elector pursuant to  
47 subdivision (1) of this subsection shall swear or affirm under penalty

48 of perjury:

49 "(A) I am the person whose name and identifying information is to  
50 be provided to the registrars of voters of the municipality in which I  
51 reside.

52 (B) I reside at the address to be so provided.

53 (C) All of the information to be so provided is true and correct as of  
54 the date of submission of this application to the department.

55 (D) I am a United States citizen who has attained the age of eighteen  
56 years or will have attained such age on or before the day of a regular  
57 election.

58 (E) My electoral privileges have not been forfeited by reason of  
59 conviction of a disfranchising crime or, if so, such electoral privileges  
60 have been restored and I am presently legally qualified to be admitted  
61 as an elector."

62 (3) In the case of a person who does not so swear or affirm in  
63 accordance with subdivision (2) of this subsection, the Commissioner  
64 of Motor Vehicles or other department head designated by the  
65 Secretary of the State shall not so provide such information to the  
66 registrars of voters.

67 (4) In the case of a person who does not submit satisfactory proof of  
68 citizenship, the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles or other department  
69 head designated by the Secretary of the State shall not so provide such  
70 information to the registrars of voters.

71 (5) The Secretary of the State shall not sell, transfer or allow any  
72 third party to access the information described in subdivision (1) of  
73 this subsection without the approval of the Department of Motor  
74 Vehicles or other state agency designated by the Secretary of the State,  
75 as the case may be.

76 (c) The information provided to the registrars of voters of a  
77 municipality by the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles or other  
78 department head designated by the Secretary of the State pursuant to  
79 subsection (b) of this section shall constitute a completed application  
80 for admission as an elector. Upon receipt of such information, such  
81 registrars shall admit as an elector the person whose information was  
82 so provided, except that such registrars of voters shall not so admit  
83 such person if: (1) Such information indicates that such person  
84 affirmatively declined to be admitted as an elector during the  
85 submission of an application to the department, (2) such information  
86 does not indicate that such person has attested to meeting all eligibility  
87 requirements for admission as an elector, as prescribed in section 9-12  
88 of the general statutes, and (3) such registrars of voters determine that  
89 such person is not legally qualified to vote.

90 (d) (1) If any person who is not legally qualified to vote applies for  
91 admission as an elector pursuant to subsection (c) of this section  
92 without knowledge of such ineligibility and is so admitted, such  
93 person's admission as an elector shall be presumed as having been  
94 effectuated with official authorization and shall not constitute a  
95 violation of section 9-357 of the general statutes on the part of such  
96 person.

97 (2) If any person who is not legally qualified to vote is admitted as  
98 an elector pursuant to subsection (c) of this section and, after the  
99 effective date of such person's admission as an elector, votes or  
100 attempts to vote without knowledge that such person is not so  
101 qualified, such person's vote shall be presumed as having been cast  
102 with official authorization and shall not constitute a violation of  
103 section 9-360 of the general statutes on the part of such person.

104 (e) If any person applies for admission as an elector pursuant to  
105 subsection (c) of this section after the seventh day before an election or  
106 after the fifth day before a primary, the privileges of an elector shall  
107 not attach until the day after such election or primary, as the case may

108 be.

109 (f) Nothing in this section shall be construed to affect the  
110 confidentiality of information under section 1-217 or 54-240g of the  
111 general statutes.

112 (g) The Secretary of the State may adopt regulations, in accordance  
113 with the provisions of chapter 54 of the general statutes, to implement  
114 the provisions of this section.

115 Sec. 2. Section 9-19h of the general statutes is repealed and the  
116 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2017*):

117 (a) The Department of Social Services, the Labor Department and  
118 the Department of Motor Vehicles shall make voter registration  
119 information and materials available to the public. Such information  
120 and materials shall be placed in public areas of the offices of such  
121 departments. The State Library and the libraries of the state's public  
122 institutions of higher education shall also make such information and  
123 materials available to users of the libraries. The Secretary of the State  
124 shall provide such departments, such libraries and any libraries open  
125 to the public with suitable nonpartisan literature, materials and voter  
126 registration application forms authorized under sections 9-23g and 9-  
127 23h. The secretary shall also provide to the Department of Social  
128 Services, the Labor Department and the Department of Motor Vehicles  
129 any furniture needed to display such literature, materials and forms.

130 (b) [In addition to the requirements of subsection (a) of this section,  
131 the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles, not later than January 1, 1994,  
132 shall include an application for the admission of an elector with each  
133 application form provided for a motor vehicle operator's license and a  
134 motor vehicle operator's license renewal, which are issued under  
135 subpart (B) of part III of chapter 246, and with each application form  
136 provided for an identity card issued under section 1-1h. Such  
137 application form for the admission of an elector (1) shall be subject to  
138 the approval of the Secretary of the State, (2) shall not include any

139 provisions for the witnessing of the application, and (3) shall contain a  
140 statement that (A) specifies each eligibility requirement, (B) contains  
141 an attestation that the applicant meets each such requirement, and (C)  
142 requires the signature of the applicant under penalty of perjury.] The  
143 Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall accept any [such] completed  
144 application for admission [which] as an elector that is submitted in  
145 person or by mail. The applicant shall state on such form, under  
146 penalty of perjury, the applicant's name, bona fide residence address,  
147 date of birth, whether the applicant is a United States citizen, party  
148 enrollment, if any, prior voting address, if registered previously, and  
149 that the applicant's privileges as an elector are not forfeited by reason  
150 of conviction of a felony. No Social Security number on any such  
151 application form for the admission of an elector filed prior to January  
152 1, 2000, may be disclosed to the public or to any governmental agency.  
153 The commissioner shall indicate on each such form the date of receipt  
154 of such application to ensure that any eligible applicant is registered to  
155 vote in an election if it is received by the Commissioner of Motor  
156 Vehicles by the last day for registration to vote in an election. The  
157 commissioner shall provide the applicant with an application receipt,  
158 on a form approved by the Secretary of the State and on which the  
159 commissioner shall record the date that the commissioner received the  
160 application, using an official date stamp bearing the words  
161 "Department of Motor Vehicles". The commissioner shall provide such  
162 receipt whether the application was submitted in person or by mail.  
163 The commissioner shall forthwith transmit the application to the  
164 registrars of voters of the applicant's town of residence. If a registration  
165 application is accepted within five days before the last day for  
166 registration to vote in a regular election, the application shall be  
167 transmitted to the registrars of voters of the town of voting residence  
168 of the applicant not later than five days after the date of acceptance.  
169 The procedures in subsections (c), (d), (f) and (g) of section 9-23g  
170 [which] that are not inconsistent with the National Voter Registration  
171 Act of 1993, P.L. 103-31, as amended from time to time, shall apply to  
172 applications made under this section. The commissioner is not an

173 admitting official and may not restore, under the provisions of section  
174 9-46a, electoral privileges of persons convicted of a felony.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2017</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2017</i>	9-19h

***Statement of Purpose:***

To provide for the automatic voter registration of any person not already registered during certain transactions or contact with the Department of Motor Vehicles or other state agencies designated by the Secretary of the State.

*[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]*